



DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION

721 Capitol Mall

P. O. Box 944272

Sacramento, CA

94244-2720

Tutorial Assistance Grant Application

Due Date—May 15, 2001

April 6, 2001

TO: Superintendents of Eligible Districts
Directors of Curriculum and Instruction in Eligible Districts
County Superintendents of Schools
County Directors of Curriculum and Instruction

FROM: Joanne Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Branch

SUBJECT: NEW TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to announce the second of two grant opportunities available through federal Reading Excellence Act (REA) funding. The Tutorial Assistance Grants (TAGs) fund school districts to provide reading/language arts tutoring programs for students in grades K through 3. These tutoring grants can be greatly supported by another funding opportunity, the federal AmeriCorps program. This document contains information on both the Tutorial Assistance Grant and the AmeriCorps programs.

IMPORTANT – REQUIRED NOTIFICATION

Within 30 days of receipt of this Request for Applications, eligible districts that intend to apply for a Tutorial Assistance Grant (TAG) must provide public notice of the availability of TAGs to potential providers of tutorial assistance operating in the jurisdiction of the local educational agency and to parents residing in such.

Failure to provide notification may result in loss of your local educational agency's eligibility for Title I funds. It is recommended that districts receiving notification publish a statement in local newspapers within the 30 day timeline to ensure that there is no loss of Title I funding.

Because of the possibility that districts may lose their eligibility for Title I funds, the CDE will also publish notice of the availability of TAGs and eligibility criteria in larger newspapers statewide.

These new funding opportunities represent a partnership effort between the California Commission on Improving Life Through Service and the California Department of Education. Together the TAG and AmeriCorps programs provide eligible school districts a variety of flexible resources to use in the design of high quality tutoring programs in reading/language arts. Districts may apply for a maximum of \$200,000 (federal Reading Excellence Act funding) per eligible school to be spent over a two-year period. Tutoring programs represent a proven strategy for supporting students in learning to read. In 1995, the California Reading Task Force, convened by Superintendent Delaine Eastin, stated in their report, *Every Child a Reader*, "...a balanced and comprehensive approach to reading must have a powerful early intervention program that provides individual tutoring for children at risk of reading failure."

Not all districts are eligible for these grants. If your district receives this mailing, it is highly probable that your district and specific schools are eligible. More information regarding district and school eligibility can be found on the California Department of Education website at: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rea/. For more information on the AmeriCorps program, you may access the Commission on Improving Life Through Service website at: www.cilts.ca.gov.

I believe that these funding opportunities will contribute strongly to improvement in student achievement in reading. I hope that you will seriously consider applying for a Tutorial Assistance Grant.